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Newsletter

March
1999

Volume 44

Number 2

A Note From the Administrator:

These are exciting times! We have just completed a successful Governor's Conference and are continuing our relentless efforts on legislative issues. As we address our priorities for the final year of the millenium, the Y2K bug has the potential to become an overwhelming task regarding many various concerns - both real and perceived. I see this as a tremendous opportunity to improve emergency management preparedness and cooperation. This will be a unique challenge compounded by the necessity to continually address our day-to-day issues.

**"I see this as a
tremendous
opportunity..."**



DES Christmas Party, 1998. Helena Conradsen of Dawson County displays her gift.

Finally, the Spring Season is upon us, prompting everyone to remain alert to the potential for flooding.

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

MAR 02 1999

Jim Greene *Spring*
Administrator

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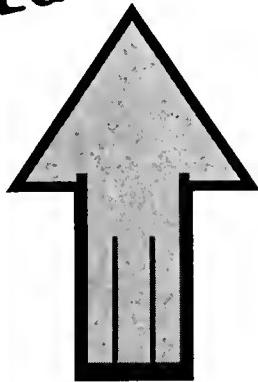
STATE OF MONTANA
DISASTER & EMERGENCY SERVICES



PLEASE RETURN

It's almost Spring! May your transition into this season be average — average rainfall, average weather, and average temperatures. NON-events would be welcomed this year. More importantly, I hope this Spring Season finds you happy, well, and actively preparing for the many challenges of the new millenium. This year's Governor's Conference provided some insight as to just how serious our concerns are for the future. Knowing our risks, however, is the key to succeeding in our efforts.

Editor Notes



Until Next Time!
Monique T. Lay
Newsletter Editor

Editor

Thank you!

Thank you to the following for contributing to
this newsletter:

Jim Greene, Marlys Cain, Fred Nacher,
Butch Renders, Bill Thomas (Special thank
you for the great photographs), Ken Mielke-
NWS, Paul Spengler, and Fred Cowie

Just a thought...

When other people take a long time to do something, they're slow; when we take a long time, we're thorough. When they don't do something, they're lazy; when we don't, we're too busy. When they succeed, they're lucky; we we do, we deserve it.

taken from
Bits & Pieces
January 14, 1999



Good Disaster Management

This is the second in a series of articles dealing with ten principles of good preparedness planning. The information is summarized from a 1996 article "*Ten Criteria for Evaluating the Management of Community Disasters*" by E.L. Quarantelli, Co-director of the Disaster Research Center of the University of Delaware. This article explains the first of the ten interrelated principles.

Principle 1 – Good disaster managing recognizes correctly the difference between agent (hazard) and response generated demands.

Disasters create two different types of demands:

- 1) those created by the hazard itself (agent generated demands), and**
- 2) those created while actually responding to the disaster (response generated demands).**

Demands created by the hazard (agent generated demands) usually vary, whereas demands created by the response are common to all disasters. Examples of the first type of demand might be the demand for sandbags created by flooding, or the demand for medical exams created by exposure to hazardous materials. Examples of response-generated demands might be the need for effective mobilization of personnel and resources, or successful coordination of activities.

The demands created by the "agent" can only be planned for up to a certain point because they require more of a tactical approach depending on the situation. Demands created by the response, on the other hand, can be anticipated and planned for in a more thoughtful and detailed way before impact. Sometimes planners try the impossible task of anticipating, and planning for every possible agent-generated demand. A failure to recognize the difference between the two types of demands can be taken as an indication of poor disaster management. The most important problems in disaster situations arise not from agent generated demands but from managing the disaster itself.

The next article will describe some of the response generated demands created by nearly every disaster which impacts a community.

Contributed By:
Bill Thomas
DES District I Representative

By now many of you have heard or read about Libby, Montana being chosen as the first Project Impact Community in the country for FY-1998. What you might not know is that Flathead County is our 1999 Disaster Resistant Community. I just wanted to take a few moments and share some thoughts about the concept and at the same time explain what is happening with our two communities.

Project Impact came about as a result of an initiative by FEMA Director, James Lee Witt. It is more of a concept than a program. It is about local, state, and federal governments forming partnerships with local private business and industry to mitigate against disasters before they happen. In 1997, a pilot program began with seven communities across the country. FEMA signed official memoranda of agreement with these pilot communities and provided money for disaster resistant initiatives. In December 1997, FEMA Region VIII requested we nominate one city in Montana as a candidate for the 1998 Project Impact program. Libby was nominated, as it has had the highest incidence of disasters in this state for the past three years. Eight months of hard work, dozens of planning meetings, monthly town hall updates to the public and a lot of shoe leather resulted in Libby's acceptance. On September 1, 1998, a formal Memorandum of Agreement was signed by thirty-six federal, state and local government representatives as well as local business and industry pledging their \$700,000 in support to match the FEMA share of \$500,000. In November we hired a full time project manager and money is now flowing into Lincoln County. For More info on our premier Project Impact Community, check out the special web site at www.libby.org and click on Project Impact.

During the summer and fall of 1998 we advertised for interested communities for the FY-1999 program. Three finalists were evaluated

Montana's PROJECT IMPACT Communities

in Helena, and Flathead County was chosen. While attending the Project Impact Summit in Washington D. C. in Dec., I had the opportunity to hear Director James Lee Witt announce Flathead County as one of the communities to be funded for \$300,000 with money to be available in spring of 1999.

Additional funding may become available in coming years, we simply do not know. When we find out if and how FEMA plans to handle next year's program, we will provide information packets. Meanwhile, we encourage all communities in Montana to begin forming partnerships and identifying hazards, because we need to change the way we deal with disasters. We should be doing this whether there is a federal funding program or not. As James Lee Witt said, "We must break the damage-repair, damage-repair cycle, and have communities and businesses come together to reduce the costs of future disasters." This is starting to happen in many communities around the country as well as here at home. Montana has many fine examples of how establishing rapport and partnerships can break the cycle. Many proactive, mitigation conscious, nonfunded communities around the country have asked FEMA to recognize them as a Project Impact Community. If you would like to discuss becoming a disaster resistant community or have a formal briefing for your local government give us a call. We at DES stand ready to offer our assistance in any way we can.

Prepared by:
Larry Akers
State Hazard Mitigation Officer

Building T Partnerships

The Republic of Kazakhstan, U.S. Central Command and the Arizona National Guard participated in an international computer workshop January 16-24 in Phoenix, Arizona.

The workshop design sought new ways to manage disasters, collect and process emergency information, and improve written emergency management techniques. The cooperative effort will be conducted in the spirit of the Partnership for Peace Program, and as part of the state partnership between Arizona and Kazakhstan.

This Arizona workshop also provided the basis for an international computer-based exercise in Almaty, Kazakhstan, set for May 1999. The practical exercise in Almaty will demonstrate mutual planning and an inter-regional response to a model catastrophic earthquake in a large city. This event will highlight military support to civil authorities, and enhance regional co-operation and information sharing in emergency management and disaster response.

Regional players in both events include Kazakhstan (host nation), Turkmenistan, Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan.

Participants from the United States include National Guard members and civilian emergency management officials from Arizona, Montana, Nevada, Louisiana, and also representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

For more information on the events and coverage opportunities in Arizona and in Almaty, Kazakhstan, please call Captain Eileen Bienz, Arizona National Guard Public Affairs, at (602) 267-2550, or contact by FAX (602) 267-2337.

Contributed by:

Bill Thomas

DES District I Representative



Kyrgyzstan Ministry on
Emergencies & Civil Defense
Phoenix, Arizona - January 1999

Pictured left to right: Uran Djamanov - External Affairs (Interpreter), Captain Scott Smith - Montana Army National Guard , Bill Thomas - Escort Officer, LTC Muctar Beishembier - Delegation Head, Djamilia Kazieva - Computer Operator.

CAMEO

The Richland County LEPC will be sponsoring two one-day Cameo workshops in March. Scheduled for the 19th and 20th at the Richland County EOC in the Computer Lab (in the Sidney Library basement), these one-day classes are being provided by the Fire School. In addition, there will be a \$10.00 registration fee and lunch and refreshments will be provided. If you are interested, please call Brad Carroll at 482-1122, or Butch Renders at 489-2220 to reserve a space.



Contributed by:
Butch Renders
Richland County DES

PARTNERSHIP IN PREPAREDNESS

The Tri-County Fire Working Group has been recognized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's "Partnerships in Preparedness", a compendium of exemplary practices in emergency management.

The group was chosen to be recognized in this year's catalogue because it serves as an example to other communities that seek an innovative and creative program that works well at minimal cost.

Tri-County is composed of citizens and federal, state and local officials from Lewis and Clark, Jefferson and Broadwater Counties. The group's purpose is to educate the public about the wildfire risk in the rural/urban interface areas and to promote mitigation measures to reduce that risk.

Projects have included producing a three-county wildfire risk map, the "Could Your Montana Home Survive a Wildfire?" pamphlet, public presentations for landowners and tabletop exercises to train responders on fighting wildland fires.

Contributed by:
Paul Spengler
Lewis & Clark County DES

MULTI-LANGUAGE GLOSSARY ON NATURAL DISASTERS

The Multi-language Glossary on Natural Disasters, 1996, edited by Dr. Kenzo Toki of Kyoto University, was published as an activity of the Japan National Committee of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). The 490-page Glossary provides equivalent natural disaster terms in Japanese, English, French, and Spanish. Dr. Toki is presently editing an Asian version of the Glossary, which will provide equivalent terms in English, Japanese, Chinese, and Korean. Copies of the Multi-language Glossary on Natural Disasters (Tokyo: Japan National Committee for IDNDR, Urban Safety Research Institute, 1996) are available from:

Dr. Kenzo Toki, Dean
Graduate School of Civil Engineering
Kyoto University
Yoshida Hon-machi, Sakyo-ku
Kyoto 606-01, Japan
Telephone: 81-75-753-5131
Fax: 81-75-762-2005
E-mail: toki@quake.kuciv.kyoto-u.ac.jp

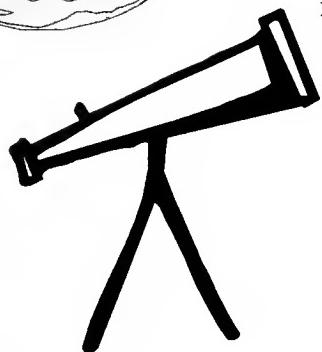
Both the publication and shipping are free of charge.

Provided by:
Jim Greene, Administrator
WSSPC Announcement

Disasters "Top 10"

Top Ten Major Disasters Ranked
by FEMA Relief Costs - 1987 - 1996

Location	State	Year	Cost
Northridge Earthquake	CA	1994	\$5.558 billion
Hurricane Andrew	FL, LA	1992	\$1.803 billion
Hurricane Hugo	NC, SC, PR, VI	1989	\$1.320 billion
Midwest Floods	IL, IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD, & WI	1993	\$1.144 billion
Loma Prieta	CA	1989	\$836.8 million
Hurricane Marilyn	PR, VI	1995	\$542.5 million
Tropical Storm Alberto	AL, FL & GA	1994	\$433.4 million
Winter Storms	CA	1995	\$372.2 million
Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Floods	MD, ME, NY, OH, PA, VA, VT, WV	1996	\$359.4 million



You may or may not have noticed that January has two full moons in it. Well, it does! That means poor February has no full moon and then March also gets two of them. The second full moon in a month is often called a Blue Moon, for reasons no one knows. Now this doesn't happen every year. In fact, the next time you have a year with two months having full moons will be 2018. The last time February went the distance without a full moon was 1961! It also happened in 1915 and in 1934.

Contributed by:
Fred Naeher
Training Manager

FEMA Panel Looks at National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan

In 1997, Congress provided \$30 million for pre-disaster mitigation, but at the same time, also called for a formal needs-based analysis and cost/benefit study of the various mitigation alternatives, with the results being incorporated into a comprehensive, long-term National Pre-disaster Mitigation Plan. Congress wanted this analysis to be independently reviewed and submitted to the Committee on Appropriations, and that report has recently been made available by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The Report and Commentary on Pre-Disaster Mitigation (1998, 40 pp., free), prepared by the Ad Hoc Panel on a National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, recommends that any mitigation agenda must:

- * concentrate on directly reducing potential losses from natural hazards through implementation;
- * overcome obstacles to mitigation by developing effective incentives for decision makers, a market for natural hazard risk reduction based on awareness and knowledge, technically sound choices for action, and supportive public/private partnerships; and
- * improve the performance of buildings, facilities, and structures in natural hazard events through more effective codes and standards, research, growth management, and improved implementation of mitigation techniques.

In addition, the panel stressed two recommendations members believe are essential to the plan's success:

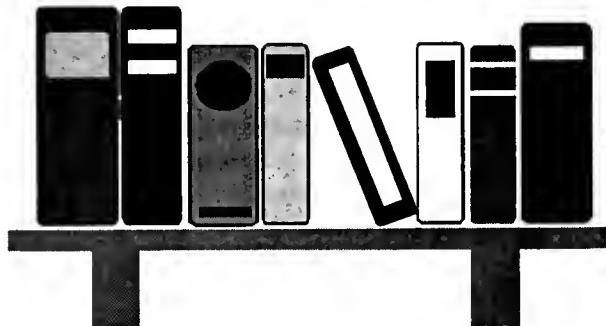
- * The National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan must be adequately funded, and Congress should increase this funding to \$500 million.
- * The president and Congress must provide federal leadership by endorsing the plan, following its principles, and working toward coordination of all federal efforts that contribute to loss reduction.

Copies of the report can be obtained from:

FEMA Publications
Distribution Facility
P.O. Box 2012
Jessup, MD 20794-2012

(800) 480-2520.

Provided by:
Jim Greene
Administrator
WSSPC Announcement



You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try.

- Beverly Sills



Correction to: EMI Schedule of Courses Brochure

The wrong application was attached to the EMI schedule that was sent out early in July. A new revised schedule has been printed (revised 7/98 in the upper left-hand corner) with the correct FEMA Form 75-5, General Admissions application, and is currently being distributed.

Please destroy all copies of the first schedule. If anyone submits the short form (FEMA Form 75-5A), their application will be returned.



School Disaster Planning Committee, Butte 1998.

You can now watch EENET on your computer! Many broadcasts are available via the Internet. For the many public safety personnel who do not have access to satellite downlink sites, this may be a great alternative. For details, visit the EENET web page at:

www.fema.gov/emi/eenet.htm

PDS

Congratulations to:



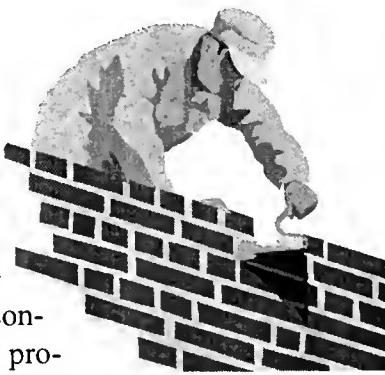
Pat Brannon, Department of Transportation

Monique T. Lay, Disaster & Emergency Services

for their completion of the Professional Development Series. Check your records! If you feel you have met the requirements for FEMA and State DES recognition for completing the series, let us know! For more information on the PDS, please see the State DES Training Catalog, or contact Fred Naeher at 841-3968.

Take Shelter

"Taking Shelter From the Storm: Building a Safe Room Inside Your house" is now available as FEMA 320. This publication includes both construction plans and cost estimates. This booklet provides designs for how to construct an interior room in a new or existing house to provide a safe room from high winds from a hurricane or a tornado. It was announced by the Director at the National Tornado Forum in August -- and has generated considerable interest.



My apologies, as project officer, for those of you who haven't heard of the project before today. The booklet (without the drawings) can also be viewed on the FEMA website on the Mitigation page.

The publications is also available at the warehouse. If you have any questions please give me a call. --Paul Tertell 202-646-3935

Provided by:
Jim Greene
Administrator
WSSPC Announcement

AWIPS?

New Computer Systems - A new interactive and powerful state-of-the-science computer system (called AWIPS) is being installed at the four NWS offices in Montana. The Great Falls and Missoula weather offices installed AWIPS in August 1998; Billings and Glasgow weather offices will install this new system in June of this year. AWIPS provides lots of tools to evaluate and predict the weather and will result in more accurate and timely warnings and forecasts. Emergency managers are invited to visit their local weather office to get a first hand look at this new system.

Ken Mielke, Meteorologist-in-Charge
National Weather Service
Great Falls, MT

Incentives/Impediments to Improving Seismic Building Performance

The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) has released an important new report, Incentives and Impediments to Improving the Seismic Performance of Buildings, 1998. This publication grew out of the interest of the Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC) and EERI to better understand the incentives for owners to improve the seismic performance of their buildings and the impediments to their doing so. With funding from FEMA through the California Office of Emergency Services (OES), an expert steering committee was convened to examine this question and to prepare the report.

This report identifies the many, often complex, factors involved in decisions to improve seismic building performance, focusing on mitigation decisions that extend beyond what is legally required. The authors provide a clear and compelling discussion of both incentives and impediments that is illustrated with examples of actual current practices. Based on its findings, the report makes recommendations for improving current incentives and for creating more effective ones.

A plan to implement the recommendations is also presented. The report is written for those who promote earthquake mitigation, either at governmental or organizational levels, and endeavors to "inspire and bring together stakeholder groups who can identify how best to motivate building owners to improve the seismic performance of their buildings." Concerned members of the earthquake engineering community will find this report of great interest.

Incentives and Impediments to Improving the Seismic Performance of Buildings, 1998, has been sent to all EERI members. A limited number of copies are available from EERI for \$15, plus tax and handling. Contact:

EERI

**499 14th Street, Suite 320
Oakland, CA 94612-1934
Telephone: 510-451-0905
Fax: 510-451-5411
E-mail: eeri@eeri.org
URL: <http://www.eeri.org>**

Provided by:

Jim Greene

Administrator

WSSPC Announcement

Y2K Info...

A toll-free number has been set up by the US Government for citizens to call for Y2K info. The number is 1-888-USA-4Y2K (repeat 1-888-USA-4Y2K). Thanks to Bill Silverman, Missoula Co. Office of Emergency Management who brought the number to my attention.

A couple of websites with checklists for Y2K preparedness for local governments:

1. <http://y2k.state.wi.us/Tools/> (150+ pages - requires adobe reader to download but probably worth it if local governments are really interested. Includes a guide for Y2K planning for schools, too. Both were mentioned in an article by Neal Pierce who is a fairly noted syndicated columnist who writes about local government issues.)
2. <http://www.dir.state.tx.us/y2k/resources/guidecont.htm>

Contributed By:

Bill Thomas

DES District I Representative

Visit the Disaster News at: www.disasternews.com

County Updates

Big Horn County:

Deputy Coordinator:
Mark Story
Business Phone: (406) 665-2003
New FAX Number: (406) 665-3465
24 Hour Dispatch: (406) 665-1503

Granite County:

Mike Braach
P.O. Box 216
Phillipsburg, MT 59858
Business Phone: (406) 859-3374

Prairie County:

John K. Pisk
Box 125
Terry, Montana 59349
Business Phone: (406) 535-5738

Roosevelt County:

New Address: 416½ 2nd Avenue South
24 Hour Number: (406) 653-6212
New FAX Number: (406) 653-6206
Cellular: (406) 650-7220

Deputy Coordinator:

Marvin J. Teel
Business Phone: (406) 653-2991 or 1940
New FAX Number: (406) 653-2996

Sanders County:

Cellular Phone: (406) 827-2297

Sheridan County:

Cellular: (406) 765-7525

Sweet Grass County:

Dan Tronrud
P.O. Box 567
Big Timber, Montana 59011
Business Phone: (406) 932-5143



HOLIDAYS!

March 17.....	St. Patrick's Day
March 20.....	1st Day of Spring
March 28.....	Palm Sunday
April 1.....	April Fool's Day
April 2.....	Good Friday
April 4.....	Daylight Savings
May 9.....	Mother's Day
May 15.....	Armed Forces Day
May 31.....	Memorial Day

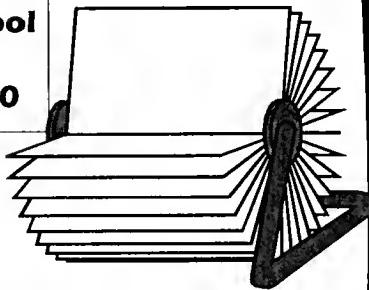


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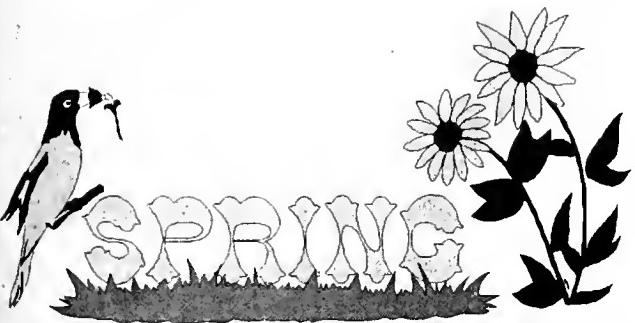
New Address

**Fire Services Training School
P.O. Box 6010
Great Falls, MT 59406-6010**



Visit our new DES Web Site

www.state.mt.us/dma/des



Info on: **CI-75**

<http://www.rpa-hln.com/ci75news.htm>

e-mail Updates:

Sheridan County

Curtis Petrik C_Petrik_County@hotmail.com

Sanders County

Martha Smith Martha_Smith@metnet.mt.gov

New State Office Domain @state.mt.us

Individual addresses will remain the same but the domain will change.

Example: mlay@mt.gov is now mlay@state.mt.us - The old addresses will remain operable for an undetermined amount of time.

At a recent computer expo, Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and said, "If GM had kept up with the technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1000 miles to the gallon."

In response to Bill's comments, General Motors issued a press release stating: If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics:

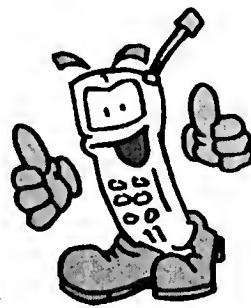
- (1) For no reason whatsoever your car would crash twice a day.
- (2) Every time they repainted the lines on the road you would have to buy a new car.
- (3) Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason, and you would just accept this, restart it, and drive on.
- (4) Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.
- (5) Only one person at a time could use the car, unless you bought "Car95" or CarNT) but still you would have to pay extra to buy more seats.

Keeping up with Technology...



- (6) Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, reliable, five times as fast, and twice as easy to drive, but would only run on 5% of the roads.
- (7) The oil, water, temperature and alternator warning lights would be replaced by a single "general car fault" warning light.
- (8) New seats would force everyone to have the same size butt.
- (9) The airbag system would say, "Are you Sure?" before going off.
- (10) Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lift the door handle, turn the key, and grab hold of the radio antenna.
- (11) Every time GM introduced a new model car, buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.
- (12) You would have to press the "start" button to shut off the engine.

More New Technology...



For those who listen to NOAA Weather Radio, you may have heard a new voice on the air waves. It is a computer-generated synthetic voice. There have been lots of opinions expressed about this new voice - positive and negative. A few things to keep in mind:

- 1) The "voice" will allow the NWS to deliver warnings and forecasts much faster. Without this system, human operators must make the recordings, and they have lots of other duties besides the radio, some of which may have a higher priority. There is no delay with the "voice"!
- 2) Since the computer has no other priorities, there will be more predictable scheduling of the broadcast suite.
- 3) This system allows us to increase our productivity while reducing personnel costs. More service for your money.

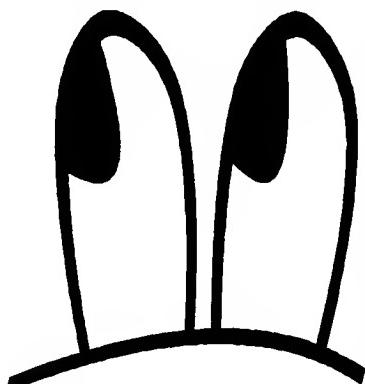


While the computer voice may take some time to get used to, we think you'll find it very acceptable - AND there will be improvements to the quality of the voice in the months and years ahead. This system will be phased in slowly - the Great Falls office started using it in September 1998; the other Montana weather offices will begin phasing it in this spring.

Ken Mielke, Meteorologist-in-Charge
National Weather Service
Great Falls, MT

<http://quake.wr.usgs.gov/QUAKES/CURRENT/montana.html>

**Check out this web site for current
earthquake information in Montana.**



For your information from Discovery.com:

China to Punish False Quake Rumors

Jan. 20, 1999 -- New rules adopted after several false quake alarms mandate that people spreading rumors of impending earthquakes serve 15 days in prison, the China Daily reported today.

"There have been quite a few adverse rumors about earthquakes in past years," the newspaper quoted an unidentified official as saying. "In some cases, thousands of residents scurried to the streets for safety because of false alarms."

The quake rumors began circling Beijing after a magnitude-6.2 tremor rocked an area 150 miles north of the capital in January 1998, killing at least 50 people.



Persons caught spreading false or misleading quake predictions face a fine of up to \$24 and 15 days detention, the newspaper reported. The new rules were approved by Premier Zhu Rongji on Dec. 17th.

Provided by:
Jim Greene
Administrator
WSSPC Announcement

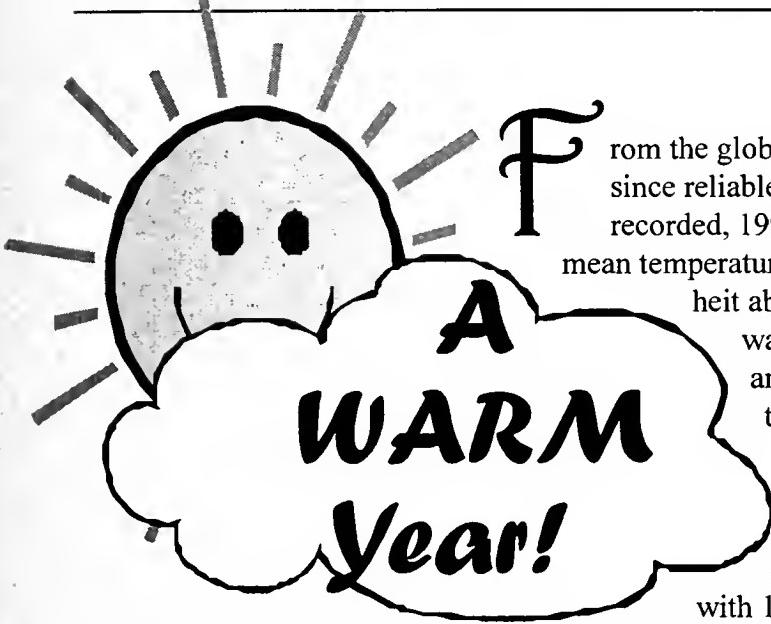


From USAA Magazine:

Avoid Fraud during Recovery Operations:

The fraud committee of the Chicago-based National Association of Independent Insurers recommends several steps to avoid gouging by phony contractors and other opportunists that swarm a locality after a disaster. Red flags to look for: Arrive without being called, have no office or local phone number, lack references and equipment, quote below-market prices, demand cash payment before starting work, cannot show licenses, proof of insurance or bonding.

Provided by:
Fred Naehler
Training Manager



From the global perspective, of the 119 years since reliable weather temperatures have been recorded, 1998 was the warmest. The global mean temperature in 1998 was 1.2 degrees Fahrenheit above the long term average. This was the 20th consecutive year that the annual global mean surface temperature exceeded the long term average.

For the United States, the average temperature in 1998 was 54.62 degrees F, which placed it in a tie with 1934 as the warmest year in our

records, which began in 1895. 1998 was warm but not dry; it was the 5th wettest in U.S. since 1895.

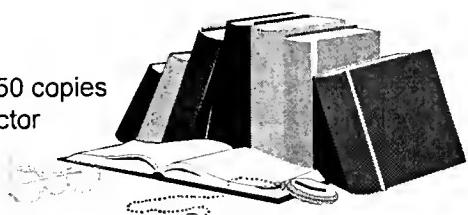
Closer to home, the 1998 average temperature for Montana ranked 5th warmest overall, since records began in 1895. Noteworthy was the month of September, which averaged 61.9 degrees F, making it the warmest September on record. The previous warmest September was in 1938, with an average temperature of 61.7 degrees F.

El Nino, which dominated global weather patterns during the winter and spring months of 1998, played a significant role in establishing these new records for the year.

Ken Mielke, Meteorologist-in-Charge
National Weather Service
Great Falls, MT

Available to you...

We have on hand the following training books: 150 copies of IG 270.3, "Expedient Flood Training", Instructor Guide and Participant Materials. Good stuff if you have not seen it. If you anticipate flooding, this will be an excellent resource for someone to use to train their responders.



We also have 20 copies of the Instructor Guide to go with SM 272, "Weather Warning Coordination" and I have about 100 student manuals on hand.

Provided by:
Fred Naeher
Training Manager

Accreditation of Programs

Suggested for State & Local Emergency Management

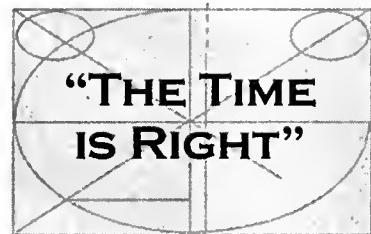
Accreditation for emergency management programs was one of the "hot topics" at the IAEM Annual Conference. Members' reactions were both hot and cold: The "pro" side contended that an established standard could convince local administrators to fund and support emergency management; the "con" side highlighted concerns about costs and fears that standards would be used punitively to limit disaster assistance and mitigation grants.



Accreditation of emergency management programs is being taken up by FEMA and the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA). They intend to build on work begun by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), expected to publish a proposed standard (NFPA 1600) for comment in January 1999. IAEM has been represented on the NFPA 1600 committee.

FEMA's View:

Speaking to this issue at the conference were FEMA's Bob Fletcher -- formerly the State & Local Programs Chief, now working as the Director's special advisor on standards development--and North Carolina State director, Eric Tolbert, heading the accreditation effort for NEMA.



"The time is right," said Fletcher. He tied the program accreditation move to the individual certification (GEM) effort, increased interest in formal education for emergency management, the NFPA standard, FEMA's Capability Assessment for Readiness (CAR), and NEMA's interest.

The NEMA Proposal:

Eric Tolbert described NEMA's feasibility study about accreditation for state and local programs - not just the emergency management agency, but the entire multi-agency program, including community partnerships, and support from elected officials.

Continued:

The NEMA proposal targets the year 2000 as the opening date for jurisdictions' self-assessments, with state accreditation starting in 2002 and local accreditation beginning in 2006. A ten-step process is suggested by NEMA: registration; application; self-assessment; peer assessment team review; on-site evaluation, peer team report; the commission's decision; critique of the process; an annual compliance report; and re-accreditation every 2-3 years. NEMA's feasibility study is expected to be posted on the Web (<http://www.nemaweb.org>). Or contact NEMA headquarters at 606-244-8112 (F: 606-244-8001).

State of Montana Training Manager's View:

We should be watching and contributing to this national accreditation process and developing a plan to get on board. If we want a meaningful training program, we should be exploring all opportunities for funding and seeking improvement in our policies and procedures. The Training Policy Group will be discussing all these issues and more. Please let your district vice-presidents know how you feel about the training program and the way we do business. Or, as always, give me a call.

Submitted by:
Fred Naehler
Training Manager

Seismic Rehabilitation Guidelines and Maps Available On-line

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's publication FEMA 273 - "National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP) Guidelines for the Seismic Rehabilitation of Buildings," and the related FEMA 274 - "NEHRP Commentary," are now available on the World Wide Web at:

<http://www.degenkolb.com/fema273/index.html>.

Both documents can be viewed and downloaded in their entirety. The seismic maps that accompany FEMA 273 are available at <http://geohazards.cr.usgs.gov/eq/>. This Web site also offers FEMA 273 users a mechanism for transmitting comments and recommendations to FEMA for improving and clarifying the existing document.

FEMA and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) are converting FEMA 273 into a pre-standard - the first step in turning FEMA 273 and 274 into an ASCE/American National Standards Institute (ANSI) -approved national consensus standard, which can be referenced by building codes and contracts. The pre-standard will be completed by June 2000. The principal investigator for the project is Chris Poland, president and senior principal, Degenkolb Engineers, San Francisco, CA. For more information, contact Jim Rossberg, ASCE, (703) 295-6196; e-mail: jrossberg@asce.org.

Provided by:
Jim Greene
Administrator
WSSPC Announcement

"Terrorism 101"

Terrorism is in vogue, both as acts among terrorists and as a catchword among governmental agencies. In an attempt to use this latest "fad" to bring forth some realistic improvement in emergency management, MT DMA-Disaster and Emergency Services Division (DES) and MT DOJ-Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) have joined forces to co-sponsor several years worth of activities geared toward coordinating Montana's response to terrorist incidents. By building working relationships between the command portions of various federal, tribal, state, city, county and private sector response groups, DES and DCI hope to familiarize agencies with each others' personnel and procedures. An initial grant from FEMA supported the September SERC/TERC/LEPC Terrorism Conference in Glasgow and a December By-Invitation Terrorism/Complex Jurisdiction Conference in

Billings, which was attended by 100 persons from about 75 different agencies and companies. A third conference, also invitation-only, will be held in Helena in May and will address mass casualty issues, as well as have a series of terrorism-type tabletop exercises. Fred Cowie of DES and Mike Batista of DCI are the points of contact for this FEMA grant initiative. It is hoped that future grants will allow this core group to continue its activities, which are parallel to and which will hopefully intersect (in future years) with many other FEMA grant activities for first responders and emergency managers.

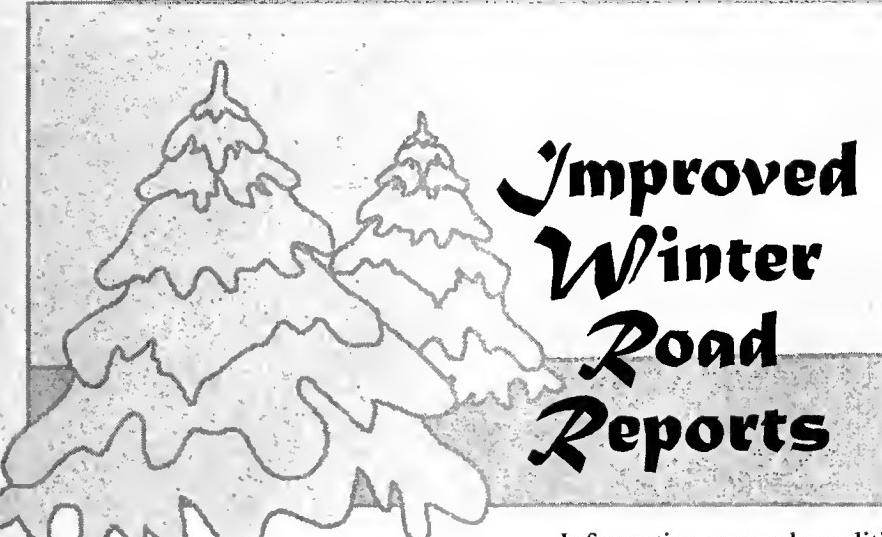
Contributed by:
Fred Cowie
MTDES Liaison to
Law Enforcement for Terrorism

.RTF



Better File Sharing: If you are unsure what type of word processor the recipient of your message is using, save your text in Rich Text Format (RTF). Most word-processing programs can read RTF files. Unlike simple text files, RTF files contain the extras, such as bold or italicized text and even footnotes.





Improved Winter Road Reports

Some significant improvements are offered this year for travelers using the statewide winter road reports. Several helpful publications are also available.

Information on road conditions is available daily including holidays, according to Bodell Miller, manager of the road report program for the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT). The information is based on first-hand observation and sophisticated electronic sensors along the roadside and in the road itself.

"One new option for those with access to the Internet is road information shown graphically on a color-coded map of Montana," she said. The map is updated frequently as changing conditions are reported. Since it presents a fairly simple picture of what's going on, it can be very helpful for travelers, she said.

Another new option is the result of a team effort between MDT, CommNet Cellular and CellularOne, called *ROAD ("star-road"). Cell phone users can call *ROAD (*7623) and connect directly to the statewide road report, she said. The call isn't billed to the caller's allotted time.

Thirty-two toll-free road report phone lines are available to handle several thousand calls per day, according to Miller. She said a 7:00 a.m. report available by phone is a summary of the weather, and conditions on the interstates and major passes statewide. A more detailed summary is available about 7:30 a.m. and again at 3:30 p.m. It includes what's happened overnight, plus major roads, passes and any problem areas.

To help prepare for winter travel, a free booklet on winter survival from the Department of Disaster and Emergency Services and MDT is available free of charge, as are pocket-size and larger maps showing phone numbers for road information and weather in Montana and neighboring states. The publications are available by calling 1-800-714-7296, by stopping at one of the MDT's offices, or from local Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinators.

The number for the statewide summary road report is 800-226-ROAD (7623). For those with a computer and modem, a detailed, section-by-section report on most highways is also available each day at about 7:00 a.m. and again at 3:00 p.m. (in addition to the new map feature). For Internet users, the reports can be found through the MDT home page at www.mdt.mt.gov. They're also available on the state computer bulletin board at 800-962-1729. For the hearing-impaired, the TTY number is 800-335-7592.

(Continued on page 22)



(Continued from page 21)

Montana's road reports are unique in that many of the more rural roads are reported and most information is available toll-free from anywhere in the US and Canada, according to Miller. The quality and ease of use of the new map is also a plus for travelers in Montana, she said.

Reports of road conditions in the vicinity of eleven of the larger cities are also available. These reports cover major and many lessor roads and are generally the earliest reports available - before 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. daily.

Winter travel is generally safer during the day, according to John Blacker, state maintenance administrator. Most snowplow crews start at 5:00 a.m. on the heaviest-traveled routes. While crews work around-the-clock in the most highly traveled areas during storms, fewer plows are out overnight as a rule. So road conditions may be worse, visibility is poorer and there's less chance of getting help when you need it.

In Montana roughly 500 state plows will be out in a major snowstorm. Last year, these plows logged over two million miles plowing snow, and four million miles the year before.

Blacker urged travelers to allow more time for travel in winter, drive with your headlights on, be sure your windshield, headlights and brake lights are kept clear and give snowplows plenty of room to work. He also urged drivers to pick up or order a copy of the Winter Survival Handbook, look it over, and put it in the glovebox where it will be handy when it is needed.

Submitted by:
Fred Naeher
Training Manager

Visit Our New Web Site
www.state.mt.us/dma/des





District 1 Coordinator's Association Meeting in Missoula, December 1998.

The following Independent Study courses will soon be available for distribution through our state office:

- IS-11 Animals in Disaster
- IS-195 Basic Incident Command
- IS-279 Retrofitting Flood Prone Structures
- IS-393 Introduction to Mitigation

We currently have on hand for "same day" mailing:

- IS-1 Emergency Program Manager
- IS-2 Emergency Preparedness, USA
- IS-5 Hazardous Materials: A Citizen's Guide
- IS-7 A Citizen's Guide to Disaster Assistance
- IS-8 Building for the Earthquakes of Tomorrow
- IS-120 An Orientation to Community Disaster Exercises
- IS-195 Basic Incident Command Course
- IS-275 The Role of the EOC in Community Preparedness, Response & Recovery

For all Independent Study Courses, listed above or not listed, you can apply directly to EMI using the brochures that were mailed out to all DES Coordinators/Emergency Managers.



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